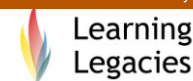


Discussion Starter**FUNDING OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC SPORT**

Clear disparities exist between Olympic and Paralympic funding figures for Team GB in the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Why is this?

FUNDING: OLYMPIC GAMES

The Olympic sports that have been assigned the highest investment are: rowing (£27,470,000), cycling (£26,922,700), swimming (£25,606,000), athletics (£25,110,990) and sailing (£23,389,800). The total overall budget for investment in Olympic sport for 2012 is £256,588,649.

FUNDING: PARALYMPIC GAMES

The overall funding budget for all Paralympic sports is £47,085,250, relatively modest when compared to the total funding budget of £256,588,649 that has been designated to Olympic sports. The sports that dominate the Paralympic funding table are; swimming (£10,057,500), athletics (£6,664,700), cycling (£3,845,500), equestrian (£3,666,700) and men's wheelchair basketball (£3,549,700).

COMPARING PARTICIPATION RATES

The Stoke Mandeville Games played host to 130 athletes in 1952, a figure that has risen considerably to 3,951 athletes from 146 countries at Beijing (2008), to a projected 4,200 athletes from 150 participating countries in the London 2012 Summer Paralympic Games. Participation in the Winter Paralympic Games have also increased from approximately 250 athletes from 17 countries in the inaugural Winter Games in Sweden in 1976, to a projected 650 athletes from 45 countries in Vancouver, 2010.

If one compares these participation figures to those of the Olympic Games, it can be noted that the number of Paralympic athletes falls far short of their Olympic counterparts.



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WHO FUNDS BRITISH OLYMPIC SPORT?

The British Olympic Association (BOA) is the National Olympic Committee for the United Kingdom and as such has the sole responsibility for raising funds for Team GB.

The BOA receives no Government funding and relies exclusively on the funds which it is able to raise itself via private and commercial ventures and via members of the public. The vast majority of these funds are raised through via sponsorship activity, licensing agreements and the awarding of other commercial rights, which allow companies to become officially linked to the Olympic Movement in one form or another (e.g. via the TOPS Sponsorship Programme).

***HOW DOES BRITISH PARITY IN FUNDING
COMPARE TO OTHER NATIONS?***

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A common trend emerges amongst other nations that mirror that of GB: namely, that the Olympic Games receive greater funding than the Paralympic Games. For example, Jamaica has entered very few Paralympic athletes in its history, preferring instead to concentrate on a small number of Olympic sports (notably, track & field).

FIND OUT MORE**Olympics Website**

<http://www.olympic.org>

BOA Website

<http://www.olympics.org.uk/home2.aspx>

Paralympics Website

<http://www.paralympic.org>

CREDITS

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